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Anguilla

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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I. General

1. Anguilla is a Non-Self-Governing Territory administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Territory lies 240 kilometres east of Puerto Rico, 113 kilometres north-west of Saint Kitts and Nevis and 8 kilometres north of St. Maarten/St. Martin. The Territory has a relatively flat topography, a total area of 96 square kilometres and includes several offshore islets. The main island has a maximum length of 26 kilometres and a maximum width of 5 kilometres. The capital of Anguilla is The Valley, where 43 per cent of the population resides.

2. An estimate for 2008 puts Anguilla's population at 14,108 and the annual population growth estimate rate at approximately 2.3 per cent.[1] According to the administering Power, growth rates and other figures for 2008 are still being compiled.[2] There are several thousand Anguillians living abroad, in particular in the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the United States Virgin Islands. Of the total population, 99 per cent speaks English. Spanish or Chinese are the most common mother tongues among non-English speakers.

II. Constitutional, legal and political issues

3. Originally inhabited by the Arawaks, Anguilla was first colonized by British settlers in 1650. For administrative purposes, it was associated with Saint Kitts and Nevis from 1871 to 1980. Following the dissolution of the Federation of the West Indies in 1962, Saint Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla became a State in association with the United Kingdom. Following a number of demonstrations demanding secession from Saint Kitts and Nevis, in the referendum held in July 1967, the vote was 1,813 to 5 in favour of secession. Further demonstrations and protracted negotiations were followed by the intervention of British security forces in 1969 and the Anguilla Act of 1971, under which the United Kingdom reassumed direct responsibility for the administration of the Territory, appointed a Commissioner and provided for the establishment of an Island Council. A separate Constitution came into effect in February 1976. In 1980, at Anguilla's request, arrangements were made by the Government of the United Kingdom for the Territory to be withdrawn formally from the Associated State of Saint Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and become a separate dependency of the United Kingdom.

4. In 1981 further constitutional talks between the Governments of Anguilla and the United Kingdom were held. Under a new Constitution, while not providing for a full measure of internal self-government, a substantial degree of additional local responsibility would be granted to the Government of Anguilla. The Anguilla House of Assembly approved the new Constitution and the United Kingdom enabled the Anguilla (Constitution) Order to come into force on 1 April 1982.

5. According to the Anguilla Constitution Order, which was amended in 1990, the Government of Anguilla consists of a Governor, an Executive Council and a

Note: The information contained in the present working paper has been derived from published sources, including those of the territorial Government, and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the administering Power under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

[1] *Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)*, www.cia.gov, 24 February 2009, accessed on 27 February 2009.

[2] Information provided by the administering Power on 10 February 2009.

House of Assembly. The Governor, who is appointed by the United Kingdom, is responsible for defence, external affairs, internal security, including the police and prison services, international financial services, public service appointments and the application to public servants of their terms and conditions of service. On all other matters, the Governor is required to consult with and act on the advice of the Executive Council. At the same time, the Order stipulates that the British Crown reserves power, with the advice of the Privy Council, to make laws for the peace, order and good government of Anguilla.

6. According to the administering Power, Alistair Harrison was appointed Governor to take office in April 2009 upon the retirement of Governor Andrew N. George.

7. The Territory's Executive Council consists of the Chief Minister, not more than three other ministers and two ex officio members (the Attorney General and the Deputy Governor). The Governor acts as Chairman. The House of Assembly is elected for five-year terms. It comprises a Speaker, seven members elected from single-member constituencies, the same two ex officio members as in the Executive Council and two members nominated by the Governor, one of whom is appointed upon the advice of the Chief Minister and the other after consultation with the Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, as appropriate.

8. General elections were held in Anguilla on 21 February 2005 and resulted in the return of the United Front Government, an alliance of the Anguilla Democratic Party and the Anguilla National Alliance, under Osbourne Fleming, with four seats. The Anguilla Strategic Alliance won two seats and the Anguilla United Movement one seat. Shortly afterwards, an opposition member crossed the floor, giving the Government five out of seven elected members in the House of Assembly. Given the even number of seats thus held by each opposition party, it was not possible for the Governor to appoint a Leader of the Opposition. The next elections are due by March 2010.[3]

9. The law of Anguilla is the common law of the United Kingdom, together with all legislation inherited from the former associated State of Saint Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla up to August 1971 and the local legislation enacted since. The law is administered by the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, which comprises a Court of Appeal and a High Court of Justice, courts of summary jurisdiction and a magistrates court. In the context of a review, the administering Power reaffirmed that the terms and conditions of employment of the Chief Justices were a matter for the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, not the United Kingdom.[4]

10. The basis of the relationship between the United Kingdom Government and its Non-Self-Governing Territories is set out in a White Paper, entitled "Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories", published in March 1999.[5] The British Overseas Territories Act 2002, which came into force on 21 May

[3] Information provided by the administering Power on 16 January 2008; and www.fco.gov.uk.

[4] Seventh report of the Foreign Affairs Committee, 2007/08 session, Overseas Territories, response of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, September 2008, Cm 7473, p. 22, at www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/pdf1/OST-response-fac.

[5] "Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories", White Paper submitted to the House of Commons on 17 March 1999 by the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs; reproduced in A/AC.109/1999/1 and Corr.1, annex 1.

2002, abolished the terms "colony" and "dependent territory" and granted the right of British citizenship to "British Overseas Territory citizens".

11. As previously reported, in early 2006 the territorial Government established a Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission to reinvigorate the constitutional review process. This was to take into account the efforts of the Committee for Constitutional and Electoral Reform, which was set up in 2001 but did not finish its work and made no recommendations for reform. In July 2006, the Commission presented to the territorial Government its report, in which it recommended changes to the current constitution, designed to provide the Territory with more internal self-governance. The Commission found that Anguillians were generally satisfied with the 1982 Constitution, which provided them with a large degree of autonomy, external (United Kingdom) forces for defence, and overseas representation by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Furthermore, the Commission stated that there was one small group in the Territory that favoured independence. The Government has considered the recommendations, consulted with members of the House of Assembly and the public through a series of meetings, and is in the process of making further recommendations to the United Kingdom Government.

12. Speaking before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the United Kingdom House of Commons on 3 December 2007, in reply to a question as to when constitutional talks would restart, the Chief Minister stated that it was hoped they would start again in January 2008. They had not begun in September 2007 as expected, since the people of Anguilla had decided to revisit the Commission's recommendations. The feeling that emerged from that process, according to the Chief Minister, was that Anguilla should have full internal self-government. It was on that basis that the process would move forward.

13. In April 2008, the territorial Government held a public forum to address a number of constitutional reform issues. According to reports in the media, legislators present at the forum expressed agreement with the approach whereby the United Kingdom would grant the Territory full internal self-government, short of political independence. In June, a second round of meet-the-people constitutional discussions in the Territory took place and addressed the issue of the administering Power's use of orders-in-council.[6]

14. Later in the year, the territorial Government reiterated its aim to attain full internal self-government by moving the negotiating process forward, inter alia, by focusing on the need to find a more acceptable way for the United Kingdom to discharge its responsibilities in the information age other than the use of orders-in-council.[7]

15. According to the administering Power's statement shared with the 2008 regional seminar on decolonization, the Commission's recommendations relating to the revision of the Constitution of Anguilla were under consideration in the first part of 2008. Furthermore, in mid-2008, a team consisting of territorial Government officials, members of the House of Assembly and lawyers was set up to draft a new constitution using the concept of internal self-government as the basis for the exercise. In early 2009, the new draft constitution was in the process of being

[6] *The Anguillian*, 6 June 2008.

[7] www.gov.ai/story.php?id=257.

finalized for public consultation and discussion with the United Kingdom later in the year.[2]

III. Budget

16. In Anguilla, the fiscal year corresponds to the calendar year. According to the administering Power, in December 2008, the Minister of Finance presented the 2009 budget to the House of Assembly, stating that the overall strategy to address the unusual circumstances in the world economy would have to be a public and private sector initiative and would have to include immediate, short-term and long-term solutions. The recurrent expenditure for 2009 was projected at approximately EC$ 241 million,[8] with capital expenditure projected at approximately EC$ 98 million. Reserves stood at EC$ 36.5 million. Over 35 per cent of the recurrent expenditure was estimated to be spent by the Ministry of Social Development. About 42 per cent of the capital budget was allocated to the Ministry of Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities, Housing, Agriculture and Fisheries.

17. As previously reported, in 2007 the Chief Minister stressed the need for a fifth minister in the territorial Government.[9] On 17 January 2008, the United Kingdom made it known that it could not accommodate the proposal from Anguilla for the establishment of a fifth ministerial position.

18. In terms of assistance from the European Development Fund (EDF), the ongoing ninth EDF allocation to Anguilla amounts to €8 million. Adding the transfers from previous EDFs, the indicative territorial allocation amounts to €8.29 million. The total amount is granted to Anguilla as sector budgetary support to infrastructure, in particular with regard to air transport. The entire allocation has already been committed. Following the ninth EDF mid-term review, the initial allocation has been increased by €3 million, for an extension of the existing budget support programme, resulting in a total of approximately €11.3 million. Anguilla's tenth EDF allocation amounts to €11.7 million. As of December 2008, this allocation remained to be programmed.[10]

IV. Economic conditions

A. General

19. Economic development slowed in 2008, with growth showing single digits as compared to the period from 2004 to 2007, when on average the economy grew in excess of 10 per cent annually, largely based on the tourism sector. The revised gross domestic product (GDP) for 2006 was EC$ 290 million, an increase of about 18 per cent from the revised figure of EC$ 245 million in 2005. The per capita GDP

[8] Anguilla's currency is the East Caribbean dollar, which is aligned with the United States dollar at the rate of EC$ 2.70 to US$ 1.00.

[9] Osbourne Fleming, Uncorrected transcript of oral evidence to be published as HC 147-i, House of Commons, Minutes of evidence taken before the Foreign Affairs Committee, Overseas territories, Monday, 3 December 2007, at www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmfaff/uc147-i/uc14702.htm.

[10] http://ec.europa.eu/development/geographical/regionscountries/country-profile.cfm?CID=ai, accessed on 19 February 2009.

amounted to approximately EC$ 30,560, or some US$ 11,000. The major contributors to Anguilla's GDP in 2006 were tourism (27 per cent); construction (18 per cent); government services (15 per cent); and banking and insurance (12 per cent).[2]

20. In 2007, the GDP increased by 21 per cent. GDP growth in 2007 was driven primarily by activity in the tourism and construction sectors, as two major foreign direct investment resort projects, over US$ 500 million and US$ 250 million respectively, were continued.[11]

B. Tourism

21. Luxury tourism continues to be central to Anguilla's economy.[12] As previously reported, the territorial Government pursues a "low volume, high value" tourism strategy. The Anguilla Tourist Board and the Anguilla Hotel and Tourism Association market and promote the Territory's tourism product.

22. According to reports in the media, in July 2008 the Tourism Sector Development Project was launched. The Project entails an economic and social impact assessment of selected tourism developments and a survey to gauge the attitudes of Anguillians and residents towards tourists and tourism; a tourism master plan to guide the development of the industry over the period 2010-2020; and an institutional development plan for the Tourism Division of the Ministry for Finance, Economic Development, Investment, Commerce and Tourism to enhance the tourism industry and improve the quality of the Territory's tourism product.[13] The contribution of tourism to employment is expected to rise from 5,000 jobs in 2008 to 7,000 jobs by 2018.[14]

23. The following tourist arrivals were recorded in 2008 and presented by the territorial Government per month, with an indication of change as compared to the corresponding month in 2007: January — 6,108, a decrease of 17.6 per cent; February — 7,177, a decrease of 6.4 per cent; March — 8,446, a decrease of 14.6 per cent; April — 6,442, a decrease of 16.7 per cent; May — 6,322, a decrease of 8.5 per cent; June — 5, 177, a decrease of 14 per cent; July — 6,964, an increase of .4 per cent; and August — 6,442, a decrease of 7 per cent.[15]

C. Financial services

24. Anguilla entered the field of financial services relatively late and has a small international finance sector, specializing in insurance, mutual funds, trust and company registration, for whose regulation the administering Power is directly responsible.[2] There is no income, estate or capital gains taxes. The industry includes four commercial banks, and 53 trust companies, among others.[2]

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[11] Information provided by the administering Power on 10 February 2009; and www2.asiaoffshore.org/html/articles01/Anguilla2009-01_id4864.htm.

[12] CIA World Factbook at www.cia.gov, 10 February 2009.

[13] www.eturbonews.com, 28 July 2008.

[14] *World Travels and Tourism Council*, at www.wttc.org/bin/pdf/original_pdf_file/anguilla.pdf, accessed on 11 June 2008.

[15] www.gov.ai, August 2008, accessed 2 March 2009.

25. Anguilla's Financial Services Commission, established in 2004, is an independent regulatory body that focuses on licensing, supervision of licensees, monitoring of financial services in general, reviewing existing financial services legislation and making recommendations for new legislation, as well as maintaining contact with appropriate foreign and international regulatory authorities.[16] As previously reported, according to the administering Power, the Territory has in place anti-money-laundering legislation, including the Proceeds of Criminal Conduct Act, 2000; the Money Laundering Reporting Authority Act, 2000; the Anti-Money Laundering Regulations; the Guidance Notes on the Prevention of Money Laundering; and the Criminal Justice Act.

26. In the context of a review, the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee was concerned by the finding of the National Audit Office that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been complacent in managing the risk of money laundering in Anguilla. The Foreign Affairs Committee agreed with the report of the United Kingdom Public Accounts Committee issued on 31 March 2008, which, inter alia, recommended that the Governor should use reserve powers to bring in more external investigators or prosecutors to strengthen investigative capacity. In this connection, the administering Power indicated that action was in hand to produce modern crime legislation in the Territory.[17]

D. Agriculture and fisheries

27. Agricultural activity in Anguilla is limited owing to a combination of poor soil and irregular rainfall. Nevertheless, agriculture continues to play a part in the livelihood of the local population. According to reports in the media, the territorial Government is exploring ways to restrict the import of certain agricultural products during some periods of the year, in order to protect local farmers and enable them to market and sell their produce in the Territory.

28. According to the administering Power, there are currently about 400 men directly employed in the fishing industry in Anguilla. In terms of commercial fishing, studies have shown that deep-sea fishing resources in the Anguilla 200-mile exclusive economic zone have the potential for development, where the resources can be exploited in a sustainable manner to satisfy markets locally and regionally.[2]

29. For its part, according to the administering Power, the territorial Government continues to implement plans for institutional strengthening and human resource development in order to effectively manage the fisheries and other marine resources of the island. Staff numbers at the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources have been steadily increasing since 2005 and the Department is currently in the process of revising the Territory's fisheries legislation which would allow for greater sustainable utilization of Anguilla's fisheries resources.[2]

30. The marine protected areas project, which commenced in July 2005, began its final phases in 2008 with the development and implementation of management plans for the marine protected areas, and the strengthening of related legislation and of the

[16] See Financial Services Commission, at www.fsc.org.ai, accessed on 6 March 2009.

[17] Seventh report of the Foreign Affairs Committee 2007/08 session, Overseas Territories, response of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, September 2008, Cm 7473, p. 28, at www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/pdf1/OST-response-fac.

Department of Environment and the Anguilla National Trust. Earlier project work showed, inter alia, that Anguilla had important reef systems and generally healthy populations of fish.[18]

E. Infrastructure

31. Anguilla continues to undertake projects throughout the island, including road works, port development, schools development and other national infrastructure needs, that fall under the immediate responsibility of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities, Housing, Agriculture and Fisheries.[2]

32. According to the administering Power, revised measurements indicate that there are approximately 230 kilometres of road, of which 136 kilometres are paved. The Valley Roads Development Project commenced in 2008 with the design and tender of sections of road, which are scheduled to be constructed in 2009. Approximately 12 kilometres of road were constructed in 2008.

33. According to administering Power, master planning for the design and construction of Government office space commenced during 2008 and will continue in 2009. The Blowing Point Ferry Terminal and the Corito Cargo Port Facility projects are being planned, with construction expected to commence during 2009/10.

34. According to the administering Power, capital expenditure on the air transport sector is anticipated to continue. In 2008, negotiations were conducted with a local company for the construction of a fixed base operator facility at Wallblake Airport designed to cater to private jets and other aircraft. It is anticipated that the construction of the facility will commence in 2009.[2] The media reported that Anguilla Air Express, a new executive air service, had started operations between San Juan, Puerto Rico and Anguilla, in February 2009.

F. Communications and utilities

35. According to the administering Power, there is no public transport in Anguilla except taxis, and car rental is widely available. Anguilla has a modern internal telephone system with multiple external gateways, including several microwave relays to St. Maarten/St. Martin, plus a fibre landing point on Tortola for international calls, with competition in mobile, landline and Internet services. Plans are in place to upgrade the Territory's cable television system in 2009 to full digital programming, including the provision of high definition video. The territorial Government is actively pursuing the development of information and communications technology services as a public utility.

36. The territorial Government has recently completed the "corporatization" of the water utility, which is to start trading in early 2009 as a State-owned water corporation. The utility will be regulated by the Public Utilities Commission. The Anguilla Electricity Company purchased two new 3.9-megawatt generators to improve the power supply to its customers. It recently started the process of procuring one additional 5.2-megawatt generator to keep up with energy demand. In

[18] Information provided by the administering Power, 16 January 2008.

addition, the Anguilla Electricity Company is partnering with the territorial Government in a renewable energy initiative. The territorial Government's energy policy inter alia aims to reduce dependence on fossil fuels for power generation and transportation, to use locally available renewable resources such as wind and solar power to the greatest extent possible and to support and advance a local skill base for the power generation sector.[2]

V. Social conditions

A. General

37. Living standards and social indicators in Anguilla compare favourably with those of other countries in the region, with an estimated literacy rate of 95 per cent in 2008.[19] For the same year, the life expectancy at birth for females was estimated to be approximately 83, and 78 for males.[19] Anguilla has had a social security scheme since 1982. In January 2009, the Chief Minister informed a public gathering that, as expected, the wave of global financial implications had struck Anguilla and a number of employment strongholds within the Territory had started to show signs of the related negative effects as a number of persons were being laid off. The territorial Government intended to make a case in London for support in the fight to mitigate the impact of the global financial crisis on Anguilla.[20]

38. As previously reported, in 2008, a national assessment team for the conduct of the country poverty assessment was formed and training for its members has begun. According to the administering Power, initial results of the assessment are expected in early 2009.

39. In 2008, the Ministry of Social Development's Department of Youth and Culture provided technical support to the Anguilla National Youth Council, established in 1976, to further develop a strategic plan designed to help tackle certain priority areas such as capacity-building and institutional strengthening, as well as youth empowerment and the mainstreaming of youth issues. In addition, the National Youth Ambassadors Corps, a component of the Ministry of Social Development, created learning opportunities for young people through involvement in decision-making, with a view to developing local leadership capacity.[21]

B. Education

40. Education in Anguilla is free and compulsory between the ages of 5 and 17 years from the pre-primary to the post-secondary level. According to the administering Power, there are 11 private pre-schools in Anguilla, of which 10 are subsidized by the territorial Government for children between the ages of 3 and 5 years. According to the administering Power, enrolment stands at 451. Children between the ages of 5 and 12 years attend primary school. There are six public and two private primary schools. Special education services are provided at centres

[19] www.cia.gov, 24 February 2009.
[20] www.caribbeannetnews.com, 15 January 2009.
[21] www.caribbeannetnews.com, 5 June 2008.

attached to two of the larger primary schools. Present enrolment in the primary sector is 1,469.

41. Secondary education in Anguilla is provided at two campuses of one secondary educational institution, the Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School. Alternative skills programmes are offered at the refurbished old hospital. According to the administering Power, some 1,123 students are currently enrolled at the school.[2]

42. The Professional Development Unit of the Department of Education and the University of the West Indies Distance Education Centre provide tertiary education in Anguilla, offering primary and secondary teacher training and basic skills training programmes. The Centre's extension campus in Anguilla offers a range of distance education programmes to students in the Territory, based on the system used by the University of the West Indies. According to the administering Power, the Anguilla Community College is expected to be established as the Territory responds to the increasing shortage of skilled personnel in the critical hospitality and construction sectors. The College's Development Unit offers courses to the public and spearheads the ongoing development of the College. In February 2009, the Anguilla House of Assembly gave its approval for the establishment of the College.[22]

C. Public health

43. As previously reported, the Board of the Health Authority of Anguilla, installed in December 2003, has responsibility for all primary, secondary and personal health-care services. The Ministry of Social Development is charged with regulating and monitoring the public and private health sectors, including the Health Authority of Anguilla, performing policymaking, regulatory and purchasing functions in relation to health services.

44. The 2009 budget makes provision for EC$ 21 million for the Health Authority. Capital estimates for the development of health services amount to approximately EC$ 2.2 million, while EC$ 2.7 million have been allocated for the capital development of the National Health Fund. As previously reported, efforts to establish a National Health Insurance scheme are under way. According to the administering Power, related legislation has been drafted.

45. There are five health centres in the island's three health districts and one hospital, the Princess Alexandra Hospital, located in the Valley. As previously reported, the territorial Government's health priorities, set out in the strategic plan for health for 2003-2008, included the strengthening of primary and secondary health-care services; and development of the Directorate of Health Services Quality Management in the Ministry of Health, which regulates public and private health services.

46. In 2008, the territorial Government joined the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV and AIDS pilot programme testing HIV and AIDS in the Territory. The pilot programme is carried out by the Barbados Ministry of Health in collaboration with, among others, the Caribbean Broadcast Media Partnership on HIV/AIDS.[23]

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[22] www.anguillian.com, 27 February 2009.

[23] www.caribbiansnetnews.com, 26 May 2008.

D. Crime

47. According to the administering Power, the crime rate in Anguilla is low by regional and international standards. The overall statistics for 2007 saw a reduction in crime in comparison to 2006. Similarly, in 2008 Anguilla recorded one murder, and there was a further reduction in violent crime.

48. At the same time, crime against property remained a priority for the Royal Anguilla Police Force in 2008. Moreover, the Head of the Financial Crime Unit was recruited with the assistance of the United Kingdom, and further assistance is being given in such areas as scenes-of-crime training; provision of an evidence-collecting vehicle; installation of computerized and immigration and customs facilities at the ferry port; and the management of prison services.[2]

49. Moreover, according to reports in the media, the Anguilla House of Assembly has amended existing firearms legislation providing for a penalty of $200,000 or five years imprisonment for persons found in possession of firearms and ammunition in the Territory.[6]

50. In the context of a review, the Foreign Affairs Committee recommended that the Government of Anguilla establish an independent inquiry to investigate allegations that Anguillan ministers had accepted bribes from developers in the Territory. Also, the Committee recommended introducing stronger anti-corruption measures in the Territory. For his part, the Chief Minister denied allegations of corruption, but stated that the Government would be willing to cooperate with any request to "bring resolution to these unfounded allegations", adding that the territorial Government was prepared to address the issue of stronger anti-corruption measures as outlined by the Committee, "transparently and effectively".[24]

51. In October 2008, in the context of the Overseas Territories Consultative Council meeting held in London in October 2008, the Chief Minister raised his concern about what he termed unsubstantiated allegations made to the Foreign Affairs Committee that ministers in the Territory were being bribed by developers. In his view, that had the potential to discredit Anguilla internationally. He pointed out that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office had responded to the Committee, indicating that the Governor of Anguilla had not received any substantive evidence of the allegations made in the Committee report.[25]

VI. Environment

52. The territorial Government's Department of Environment and the Anguilla National Trust are the principal entities dealing with environmental issues in Anguilla.[2]

53. During 2008, Anguilla and other Territories in the Caribbean administered by the United Kingdom agreed to work out national strategies to help reduce the debilitating effects of climate change. The focus areas included climate change

[24] www.caribbeannetnews.com, 19 July 2008.

[25] www.gov.ai, 3 November 2008; Seventh report of the Foreign Affairs Committee 2007/08 session, Overseas Territories, response of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, September 2008, Cm 7473, p. 20, at www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/pdf1/OST-response-fac.

impact studies and vulnerability assessments, developing national and sectoral adaptation strategies, and support for public education, outreach and national project management. The exercise was carried out in conjunction with a project of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the European Union that elaborated strategies to counter climate change and biodiversity loss.

54. In the context of the 2008 Overseas Territories Consultative Council meeting, the territorial Government agreed to work together with the United Kingdom to address the potential impact of climate change and to promote sustainable environmental policies with additional support from the United Kingdom's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

55. In April 2008, Anguilla launched its National Disaster Warning System after testing the first phase of the national system and following a successful pilot project the previous year. The second phase of the project comprises the establishment of a website through which the public can register to receive emergency and tourism information messages. Partners in the project include the private sector.[26]

VII. Relations with international organizations and partners

56. Anguilla is a member of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and an associate member of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Association of Caribbean States, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and CARICOM and the Common Market.

57. As a Non-Self-Governing Territory of the United Kingdom, Anguilla is associated with the European Union but is not a part of it. The Territory has yet to establish its relation to the European Union's Economic Partnership Agreement.

58. As previously reported, the United Kingdom and those Overseas Territories represented at the 2007 Consultative Council, including Anguilla, agreed to extend the United Nations Convention against Corruption to all Overseas Territories at the earliest opportunity. According to the administering Power, this Convention has not yet been extended to Anguilla. Work is ongoing in this regard. At the same time, a proposal for a comprehensive update of reporting requirements on behalf of Anguilla to the International Labour Organization (ILO), and related training requirements are under consideration by the territorial Government.[2]

59. At the Overseas Territories Consultative Council meeting held in London in 2008, the territorial Government agreed on the target date of October 2009 for the extension to the Territory of ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour and of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and to consider the options available to meet international obligations on sexual orientation.

60. As previously reported, the Government of Anguilla cooperates directly with other Caribbean Governments and participates in regional projects of various international organizations and agencies. In October 2008 it was reported that Anguilla would join in the consultations, held by States members of OECS, on a proposed economic union.[27]

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[26] www.gov.ai/Disaster.pdf.

[27] Oxford Analytica, www.oxan.com, 1 October 2008.

VIII. Future status of the Territory

A. Position of the territorial Government

61. Developments on constitutional reform efforts involving the future status of Anguilla are referred to in section II of the present paper.

B. Position of the administering Power

62. In a statement made on 6 October 2008 before the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, the representative of the United Kingdom said, inter alia, that her Government's relationship with its Overseas Territories was based on partnership, shared values and the right of each Territory to determine if it wished to retain its link to the United Kingdom, where applicable. Her Government had no intention of imposing independence against their will.[28]

63. She referred to various constitutional review processes that had been undertaken with the aim of providing a modern constitutional framework to reflect the specific circumstances of each Territory. Provisions relating to good governance, human rights and the roles of the Governor and locally elected politicians had been updated. She stated that her Government's support for the Territories was focused on capacity-building and sustainable development, and indicated that the United Kingdom continued to work with the Territories, as appropriate, in areas such as political and economic transparency, security, reduction of vulnerability to natural and non-natural disasters and environmental management.

64. In a paper dated 8 May 2008, sent to the Chairman of the Special Committee for circulation at the Pacific regional seminar on decolonization in Bandung later that month, the United Kingdom similarly set out its position,[29] as based on the 1999 White Paper entitled "Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories".[5] The paper also addressed the status of various constitutional review processes undertaken in the framework of the White Paper.

C. Action taken by the General Assembly

65. On 5 December 2008, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolutions 63/108 A and B, based on the report of the Special Committee transmitted to the General Assembly[30] and its subsequent consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/63/408). Section II of resolution 63/108 B concerns Anguilla. Under that section's operative paragraphs, the General Assembly:

> "1. *Welcomes* the work of the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission and its report of 2006, the holding of public and other consultative meetings in 2007, with the aim of making recommendations to the

[28] A/C.4/63/SR.2, paras. 35-37.

[29] The full statement can be found at www.un.org/depts/dpi/decolonization/regional_seminars_statements_08/united_kingdom.pdf.

[30] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/63/23).

administering Power on proposed changes to the Constitution of the Territory and the subsequent efforts of the territorial Government to advance the internal constitutional review exercise;

"2. *Stresses* the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Government for a visiting mission by the Special Committee, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission, if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chairperson of the Special Committee to take all the necessary steps to that end;

"3. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public consultative outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested."